

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 01585 150702Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 INR-10 EA-10 ISO-00 /026 W
-----114720 150704Z /14

R 150640Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6749

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, TW, US
SUBJECT: VISIT OF WEST POINT CADETS TO TAIWAN

REF: 77 TAIPEI 2706

1. THIS SUMMER, AS IN PAST YEARS, THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT PLANS TO SEND FOUR CADETS AND ONE ESCORT OFFICER TO TAIWAN FOR A TWO-WEEK CHINESE LANGUAGE AND AREA ORIENTATION VISIT. THE PURPOSE OF THE CADETS' VISIT IS TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN THE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE OF CHINA. SIMILAR TRIPS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR AT LEAST SEVEN YEARS.

2. THE ITINERARY FOR THIS YEAR'S TRIP WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE, AS IN THE PAST, VISITS TO THE CHINESE MILITARY ACADEMY (CMA), SCENIC TOURS TO CHIAYI, ALISHAN AND SUN MOON LAKE, AND A VISIT TO EMBASSY LANGUAGE SCHOOL. A CALL IS USUALLY SCHEDULED ON THE CINC, ROC ARMY, AND ON THE SENIOR WEST POINT GRADUATE ASSIGNED TO TAIWAN. DATES FOR THIS YEAR'S TOUR ARE TENTATIVELY SET FOR JULY 29 - AUGUST 14. TRAVEL ORDERS FOR THE CADETS AND THEIR ESCORT HAVE NOT YET BEEN CUT, PENDING APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED DATES. ESCORT OFFICER IS UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME, BUT WILL BE A MEMBER OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE FACULTY AT WEST

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POINT AND WILL BE FAMILIAR WITH TAIWAN. ALL TRAVEL/ LODGING WILL BE ARRANGED BY DAO, EXCEPT AT THE CMA, WHERE THE CADETS WILL LIVE IN CMA DORMITORIES.

3. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THIS IS A RATHER LOW- PROFILE VISIT (LAST YEAR'S VISIT RECEIVED NO PUBLICITY), AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT THIS PROGRAM IS OF

PRIMARY BENEFIT TO THE USG, WE ARE INCLINED NOT TO INTER-
POSE AN OBJECTION TO IT. HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH
TO CONSIDER ISSUING GUIDANCE FOR NEXT YEAR AND SUBSEQUENT
YEARS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TAIPEI01585
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780114-0943
Format: TEL
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780363/aaaacbrv.tel
Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 82394bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 77 TAIPEI 2706
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3318309
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF WEST POINT CADETS TO TAIWAN
TAGS: MILI, TW, US, WEST POINT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/82394bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014